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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

Approved: S
12/10/59

DATE: December 5, 1959

SUBJECT: Summary

PARTICIPANTS: M. Herve Alphand, French Ambassador
M. Claude Lebel, French Minister

The Secretary

Mr. Francis O. Wilcox, Assistant Secretary, IO

Mr. Foy D. Kohler, Acting Assistant Secretary, EUR

COPIES TO: Mr. L. Dean Brown, WE

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The Ambassador said that there had been progress in the Working Group. The date is fairly well fixed even though de Gaulle would have preferred May. Geneva is satisfactory; Paris, as suggested by Adenauer, would also be satisfactory. The composition is correct although the Italians would probably press to come in.

The Secretary replied that we agree on the four and expect, perhaps even at Rome, continuing pressure from the Italians.

The Ambassador said the agenda looks generally satisfactory. The words "Germany, including Berlin" would seem preferable to "Germany and Berlin".

The Secretary referred to the agreed paper on Soviet intentions and said we can expect a broad discussion including a peace treaty.

After the Ambassador mentioned the two French papers on aid to under-developed countries and non-intervention, the Secretary said that the idea of creating a machinery to limit arms shipments to Africa has appeal. It would be worth exploring although there is the problem how individual, independent African countries would react. It had been considered once before in connection with the Middle East but had broken down because of certain programs underway and the difficulty of defining the area. We would not like to get into a discussion of spheres of influence or of non-intervention.

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Mr. Wilcox

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Mr. Wilcox noted that the President had proposed a Middle Eastern arms embargo a year ago in the U.N.

The Secretary said that we could also study cooperative arrangements on large-scale development programs like the Aswan.

The Ambassador said that General de Gaulle does not want to change what exists on the Western side, either individual programs or multilateral ones like IDA. He wants to select countries where the Soviets already are and go into projects, large-scale or smaller such as with hospitals.

Mr. Kohler said that we must look at Soviet intentions in this field. Here in the U.S. Khrushchev had made the point that the Soviet concept is to compete not to cooperate.

The Ambassador said that we should expose this so that the world understands the difference.

Mr. Kohler said that Khrushchev has already labeled it peaceful competition.

Mr. Lebel said that when this was discussed at Rambouillet General de Gaulle had said that he was sure that the Soviets would refuse. That is why he wants to try it.

The Secretary cautioned that when you put something up to the Russians you want to be sure exactly what you are offering.

The Ambassador reverted to the Working Group saying that it should not discuss substance now but rather refer subjects to study by the governments.

The Secretary said that papers prepared have a useful purpose in that they will allow the Western Summit to focus on problems contained and then give directives for further study to the Working Group.

Mr. Kohler said that we have indicated we are ready to continue the work here. The Germans and British seem in accord.

The Secretary noted that, so far as disarmament is concerned, we have the question of bringing in the Italians and ~~Canadians~~. There is also the matter of NATO coordination and how it participates in early technical studies.

The Ambassador said he was not sure of the French position on continuing work here. He would imagine there would not be great opposition. He then turned to Berlin, stating that the Chancellor and General de Gaulle had agreed that it is not possible to get anything more favorable than the status quo. The only way that Khrushchev might agree would be through recognition of the GDR as a counterpart. Therefore, neither the French or Germans see the possibility of an interim solution.

The Secretary

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The Secretary replied that we have no new or fancy formula for Berlin. We asked a series of questions because they need answers, even if negative ones. They define the range in which we could go. We are not trying to force or prejudice. There are certain matters on which we might be able to take a line. On others there may be pressures and alternative responses which need consideration.

In response to the Ambassador's question on the status of disarmament studies, the Secretary replied that the Coolidge studies are not complete. In Paris we will probably have to decide when to convene the Disarmament Sub-Committee, before or after the Summit. We also have to decide how we are to get together to put forward our ideas. We won't have a fixed position in December as our target date is January. Perhaps the international working group could get together in that month. While we have no strong preference for a possible site, we have indications Washington would be satisfactory.

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